

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number  
50/70

USGS Quad  
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number  
1095



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 2000

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 2318 Massachusetts Avenue

Historic Name Christopher Caldwell House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1852

Source visual inspection, maps, Lex. Val. List

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage

Major Alterations (with dates) early 20th c. - front porch,  
1983 - damage by fire; 1984 - rear addition

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 15,500 SF

Setting mixed residential on busy main road

## BUILDING FORM (2318 Mass. Ave.)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Located at the southeast corner of Mass. Ave. and Nickerson Road, 2318 Mass. Ave. is a 2 1/2-story, 3 x 2-bay dwelling which is sheathed in wood shingles and set on a brick foundation. The asphalt-shingled roof displays projecting eaves which end in returns on the side gables. A brick chimney rises from the east ridge with another brick chimney rising along the west elevation.

The facade is fronted by a full-width, hipped roof, single-story porch which dates to the early 20th century. It is supported by paired Roman Doric columns with sets of three columns at the corners, echoed by single pilasters against the house. The porch displays a concrete floor and stairs above a mortared stone base. The center entrance consists of a six-panel door with partial (2 x 4-light) sidelights set above raised panels. Most of the windows contain 6/6 sash with molded surrounds, metal storms and louvered shutters. On the west side of the house some of the original 6/6 windows have been replaced by modern 6/6 and 2/2 units. At the rear of the house is a shed-roofed, single story addition constructed in 1984. It is punctuated by a modern bay window and sliders.

A paved driveway extends along the east side of the house, terminating at a two-car garage. The clapboarded building rests on a concrete foundation and is capped by a hip roof with ventilator. Two overhead garage doors face Mass. Ave. A brick walk leads to the front door. A row of arborvitae marks the Nickerson Road streetline.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house does not appear on the 1852 map but appears on the 1853 map as being owned by C. Colwell (sp?). Assessors' records indicate that Christopher Caldwell came to Lexington from Cambridge. In 1862 Caldwell was assessed for a house valued at \$800, a barn valued at \$300, two outbuildings and seven acres of the land. Caldwell is also shown as the owner of the property on the 1875 map.

By 1894 the property was owned by Barney McCaffery, a laborer, who is also shown as the owner on the 1906 map. After his death in 1908 the house was owned for several years by his wife. By 1913 the property was owned by Bartholomew Connors, who worked as a freight clerk for the railroad. Later directories list him as a farmer. Members of the Connors family continued to own the property into the 1940s.

Nickerson Road was laid out in the 1970s. The present owners purchased the property in 1981. The building was damaged by fire in 1983 and the rear addition was constructed the following year.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.  
1852, 1853, 1875, 1906 maps.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*